

Audit and Governance Committee

11 April 2022

Risk Management Update

For Review and Consultation

Portfolio Holder: Cllr S Flower, Leader of the Council

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Report Status: Public

Brief Summary: The continual development and promotion of risk management will ensure that Dorset Council remains well placed to demonstrate that objective and informed decisions are taken. Appendix A includes the roadmap, which provides a clear view of achievements to date. Strategic risk management is owned by the Senior Leadership Team, with an agreed risk management framework and appetite statement both of which set out the Council's commitment.

The aim is to help provide further early warning signals and to provide a revised set of management information that may be better suited to the nature of the risk.

During the continued challenges that we face the aim is to develop and consider tools and processes that help to provide rapid reporting and insights. An example of progress is the recent launch of the risk management pathway on the learning portal.

This quarterly update report also provides an overview of emergency planning and information compliance.

Recommendation: That Audit and Governance Committee:

- i) note and review the key risks identified in the corporate and service risk registers, with escalation to Scrutiny Committees where appropriate.
- ii) note and review the key metrics and headlines from emergency planning.
- iii) note and review the key metrics and headlines from information compliance.

Reason for Recommendation: To ensure that the Council’s risk management methodologies remain current, proportionate, and effective in enabling risk informed decisions to be made.

1. **Report**

1.1 The latest update provides a revised road map, comparison, improved graphical analysis and public health risks. Work has also started on the capture of revenue and benefits risks and will be presented at the next meeting for consideration.

1.2 The principles of the Council’s risk management framework to be “risk aware” and not “risk averse”, with our arrangements informing our decision-making processes. There are now ten strategic risk themes informed by operational service level risks owned by Heads of Service and Service Managers.

Current Risk Themes	
Communities	Political & Leadership
Compliance	Safeguarding
Digital & Technology	Service Delivery
Finance	Transformation
Health, Safety & Wellbeing	Workforce

1.3 Councillors can view the risks by theme from [this link](#).

1.4 At a recent meeting it was agreed to include separate appendices to report on emergency planning matters and information compliance. These are included as part of this report for the first time. Future reporting will provide greater focus on lessons learnt from debriefs following risk events.

2. **Financial Implications**

No budget implications specifically, although unmanaged risks may pose a threat to the Council's financial stability. Identified risk improvement measures may also have direct budget implications, each of which need to be subject to a cost/benefit analysis prior to implementation.

3. **Climate Implications**

Climate related risks are created by a range of hazards, such as changes in temperature, leading to droughts, or agricultural losses. While others tend to occur suddenly, such as tropical storms and floods. It is recognised that climate-related impacts are not just a future threat.

The Council holds several crisis planning action cards to manage potential climate-related risks. There are increasingly focused efforts nationally to build resilience into investments and development about climate implications. The Council have a few identified risks within the risk registers that relate to climate change and the implications.

4. **Well-being and Health Implications**

Health, safety, and wellbeing is identified as one of our corporate risk themes.

5. **Other Implications**

None

6. **Risk Assessment**

Having considered the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:

- Current Risk: HIGH
- Residual Risk: HIGH

The risk level is identified as High as Appendix B provides an update on those High-level risks which are currently identified within the Corporate Risk Register.

7. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

Considering equalities issues is a key aspect of good governance, but there are no equalities issues arising directly from this report.

8. **Appendices**

Appendix A - Summary of Extreme and High-Level Risks

Appendix B – Summary update from Emergency Planning

Appendix C – Summary update from Information Compliance.

9. **Background Papers**

None